

State Internet Standards – Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)

Effective: April 10, 2002

Introduction

This document describes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) Standards, which are designed to:

- Provide **users** consistency and ease-of-use for accessing digital government services while using industry standard Web browsers,
- Provide **Web developers and content creators** with a minimum level, non-proprietary markup language for creating Web sites and Web applications that are universally accessible to a variety of technologies.

This document was developed in conjunction with the state's Customer Advisory Board (CAB), which recommends standards to the Information Services Board (ISB).

Statutory Authority

The provisions of RCW 43.105.041 detail the powers and duties of the Information Services Board (ISB), including the authority to develop statewide or interagency information services and technical policies, standards, and procedures.

Scope

These standards apply to all executive and judicial branch agencies and educational institutions, as provided by law, that operate, manage, or use IT services or equipment to support critical state business functions.

Exemptions

Beginning April 10, 2002, periodic maintenance and all new development must incorporate the new standard where applicable. It is not required to retrofit Web sites and Web applications developed, or in stages thereof, prior to April 10, 2002.

Standards

The purpose of this document is to define statewide standards for Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) so that clients can access Digital Government information and services in a consistent, easy-to-use manner.

Basic Principles for HTML

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is currently the most common mark-up language used for presenting information via the Internet. It is based on a limited, defined set of variables and has gone through various iterations to be able to deliver additional information like graphics, sound, and video. A Web browser, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape, interprets the HTML and presents the information to the user.

HTML is non-proprietary and can be created and processed by a wide range of tools, from simple plain text editors to readily available Web development products. Recommendations for HTML and versions are published by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

Current State Internet Standard

HTML 4.01 is the current state Internet standard for creating Web sites and Web applications.

Although industry standard browsers such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Netscape's Navigator generally support HTML 4.01, some features may be supported differently. Additionally, some browsers may support non-standard features. It is recommended that Web site and Web application developers test for compatibility with their intended audience.

Related Policy, Standards, and Guidelines

[Computing and Telecommunications Architecture Policy](#)

Maintenance

Technological advances and changes in the business requirements of agencies will necessitate periodic revisions to policies, standards, and guidelines. The Department of Information Services is responsible for routine maintenance of these to keep them current. Major policy changes will require the approval of the ISB.